

K. Love J.

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THE
PICTURESQUE BEAUTIES
OF THE
COUNTY OF DORSET:

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

OCCASIONAL OBSERVATIONS,

ON ITS

ANTIQUITIES, CURIOSITIES, MANUFACTURES, CUSTOMS, HISTORY, TRADITIONS,

&c. &c. &c.

Erranti, passimque oculos per cuncta ferenti.

VIRG.



WAYMOUTH:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. LOVE, AT HIS CIRCULATING AND MUSICAL LIBRARY;
AND SOLD BY THE BOOKSELLERS IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND.

Entered at Stationers' Hall.

M, DCCXC, III.

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M. DCCC. III.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE
LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY;

TO THE
KNIGHTS OF THE SHIRE;

To those, to whom he has been particularly obliged for their kind assistance, in promoting
This Undertaking;

TO THE
NOBILITY, GENTRY, CLERGY &c. OF THE COUNTY;

AND TO THE

PUBLIC IN GENERAL,

With the most unfeigned Sense of Gratitude,

THESE SHEETS OF THE

PICTURESQUE BEAUTIES OF DORSET,

Are respectfully Dedicated,

By

Their Most Devoted,

Much Obliged

Humble Servant,

January 1, 1793.

JOHN LOVE.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE
LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY

TO THE
KNIGHTS OF THE SHIRE
The Undersigned

TO THE
NOMINATE, CLERGY, AND THE COUNTY
AND TO THE
PUBLIC IN GENERAL

With the most unfeigned sense of Gratitude
The undersigned of the
PICTURESQUE REACTIVES OF DORSET
Are respectfully Dedicated

By
Their Most Devoted
Much Obligated

Humble Servant,
JOHN LOVE

THE

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

EMBOLDENED by the great and flattering success of a late Work which I published, entitled, PICTURESQUE VIEWS of WAYMOUTH, PORTLAND, CORFE-CASTLE, &c. I step forth with some degree of confidence in the present Undertaking; and, at the same time, am peculiarly happy in this opportunity of paying my most grateful respects to those who assisted and patronized me in the above Publication: But that which must have awakened ambition in any breast, and have proved a stimulus to future exertions, was the generous condescension

sion of His Royal Highness the DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, to whom it is Dedicated—a Prince, whose knowledge of the Fine Arts, and talents in every branch of Polite Literature, are only equalled by the gentleness of his Manners, and the goodness of his Heart.

ERE the advancement of the Arts to their present height of perfection, the public judgement has been too often insulted with Drawings, below mediocrity, under the title of Works of MERIT : But 'tis with no small degree of pleasure we now witness daily improvement in those undertakings. Artists are now continually starting up, who have not only spirit to attempt, but genius to execute Works, which do honor to themselves, and to their country. Even among the Great and the Affluent we see numbers, who, with a laudable ardor, seize the pencil, and pursue the path of fame!

HERE it would be ingratitude in me, not to pay the tribute of my acknowledgment to those Honorary Draftsmen, &c. who have enabled me to carry into execution a plan which I have

have long had at heart—who voluntarily and condescendingly, stepped forth, and presented the charming Drawings which adorn this Publication.

THE Reader might, perhaps, be led to enquire, why the Publisher had not given Drawings entirely his own? I hope no one will consider such an Undertaking beyond the reach of my abilities. From the first dawn of reason, I can with truth aver, I have been an admirer of Works of this kind, and dare take a pride in declaring that I had the honor of improving my talents under one of the first MASTERS that this Kingdom has ever produced; * and of being elected a Member of the *Royal Academy*, during the Presidency of the late SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, whose name will long be dear to Britons. Consequently, the candid will allow me sufficient knowledge, from the great number of Drawings, with which I have been favored by people of the first Character, to select such as may merit public approbation.

* THE CELEBRATED, BUT UNFORTUNATE RYLAND.

As an Amateur in the Fine Arts, I should have been sorry to have seen so many beautiful designs sink into oblivion; and as I have been favored with opportunities of information which could not be obtained by any but an Artist, from a wish to gratify the taste and curiosity of a generous PUBLIC, to give this undertaking all the novelty of design, and elegance of execution that assiduity or expence could bestow, has been the highest ambition of ITS

Most Devoted,

Humble Servant,

J. LOVE.

INTRODUCTION.



PICTURESQUE description is so near akin to poetry that it requires, not only superior skill in chusing subjects and arranging materials, but an extensive knowledge, and an exalted genius to do it justice : 'Tis not to traverse the track, marked out by the hand of the correct Geographer, or formal Historian ;—to follow the high-road of common Information, and collect the fragments which those who have gone before, thro' negligence or incapacity, have overlooked or despised :—He, who would wish to please in this species of composition, must call in the sister arts to his aid, while mounting on the wings of fancy, he ranges thro' the unbounded wilds of nature, in search of the beautiful and the sublime :—Wherever the streamlet gurgles, or the torrent roars—where the straw-crowned cot rises, amidst tufted trees ; or, fixed on the steadfast rock, the proud castle lifts its embattled head, ambitious of its ancient honors ;—in the lonely vale, or on the mountain's brow ; at the break of day, or shut of evening, he must

attend and contemplate the works of creation :—He ought to see Nature in all her rich variety of colouring, beneath the cheering influence of summer skies, or wrapt in the majesty of storms and darkness !

AFTER all, it is a rare thing for the artist to find materials exactly adapted to answer his design, with respect to composition,—there may be an insufficiency, or redundancy of objects, in the most complete scenes, that may ill suit the limits of a Drawing ; an enormous mountain in the foreground may so intrude as to appear highly disgusting ; but if softened by circumstances of distance and seasons, may add to the grace and beauty of the landscape. A fine river, one of the happiest appendages of picturesque beauty, might, by flowing in a stiff and unpleasing direction, rather deform than improve the Piece ;—even where the nicest hand of Art has laboured to decorate the prospect, the eye is to often disappointed, if not offended.

NUMBERLESS are the difficulties and disadvantages with which he must struggle, who engages in a work of this kind, in which the pen and the pencil must mutually assist each other ; in addition to just description, the flowers of language are requisite to support the character it assumes, and render it pleasing to the man of taste and genius.

INTRODUCTION.

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For not alike to ev'ry mortal eye,
Is this great scene unveil'd:—For since the claims
Of social life to diff'rent labours urge
The active pow'rs of man, with wise intent,
The hand of nature on peculiar minds
Imprints a different bias.

With a fond enthusiasm, at a vast expence, and with infinite toil, have our artists, hitherto, searched foreign countries, to find subjects for their pencils, attracted by the celebrity of Grecian or Roman architecture,—the magnificent remains of triumphal arches, temples, towers, and aqueducts, these models of superior excellence, by the study of which the masters of the ancient Schools have acquired immortal fame;—and with respect to natural beauties other countries have too vainly been extolled, in variety and richness of scenery, as much superior to our own; “But ENGLAND,” says a judicious modern writer, “has, undoubtedly, many characteristic charms and graces, worthy of the pencil; and the painter need not leave his own country to see the most delightful scenes in the world!”

In order to render these sheets interesting, not only to the ingenious artist, but to the virtuosi, and to the man of enquiry, our Plan will likewise comprehend a brief account of the History, Traditions, Antiquities, and Curiosities, that appear worthy the notice of the public; together with some description of the most remarkable Manufactures, Cus-

toms, Privileges, charitable, and other Institutions, &c. Nor shall we omit such recent Occurrences as are worth recording, among which, in the most distinguished light, we shall place the Visits of our SOVEREIGN, and ROYAL FAMILY, who have, of late, honored this County in a peculiar manner, not once only, and that by a short excursion, but by fixing their residence in it for successive seasons; and diffusing around them, to its farthest bounds, a portion of that felicity which they themselves enjoy, and which they were raised by heaven to dispense on a great and free people!—Beneath whose auspices the Arts and Sciences flourish, and are making a rapid progress towards perfection: while all the sons of genius, with a sacred enthusiasm, lend their assistance to raise a Monument of Fame, to the memory of that Illustrious House, which shall only perish in the universal wreck of nature!

PICTURESQUE

PICTURESQUE
BEAUTIES OF DORSET.

CONFINED within the narrow limits of a small county, we are in a manner deprived of those great advantages, which a vast extent of country, and a variety of extraordinary objects afford: Nevertheless, whatever objections may be started, it must still be acknowledged, that DORSETSHIRE has to boast, a variety of PICTURESQUE BEAUTIES, which, tho' in *Miniature*,—if we may use the expression,—cannot but give pleasure and satisfaction to the admirer of the Fine Arts, to the favorite of the Muses, and to the lover of rural simplicity.

THIS COUNTY has, not improperly, been called the Garden of England, the air being remarkably healthy, and the soil, highly improved by cultivation, rich and fruitful.—The hills are clothed with woods, the

plains covered with flocks, and the delightful vallies and meadows fertilized by innumerable streams.

It, likewise, boasts some fine Ruins of Convents, Monastries, and curious Druidical Antiquities ; many elegant Country Seats, and delightful Villages.

Its utmost Length, from East to West, is no more than fifty-eight miles, it is thirty-six in Breadth, and about two hundred in Circumference. It contains fourteen Market-Towns; Parishes, two hundred and fifty, Castles, six,—Inhabitants, about one hundred and thirty-two thousand. It sends twenty Members to Parliament, two of whom are Knights of the Shire.

In order to proceed with regularity, it was necessary for us to commence our Work with a survey of the COUNTY TOWN, and its INVIRONS.

DELIGHTFULLY situated on the fertile banks of the River FROME, upon a gentle declivity, on the Western Road, DORCHESTER presents itself to great advantage, and affords, on either side, a truly picturesque prospect.

It was on one of the most lovely mornings of summer, when we had an opportunity of a view of the eastern side, from the London road; and we

have

have seen few scenes surpass, or, rather, equal it. Its streets, its principal edifices, and towers, rise, in just gradation, happily contrasted with trees, of the thickest foliage, which add to the grace and variety of the whole. It is likewise surrounded with delightful walks, over-arched with a verdant canopy of lime and sycamore, which, even in the warmest days of summer, when the unclouded sun darts his most fervent ray, form an extensive and impenetrable shade. On the north side of the town, the FROME winds its way thro' fertile meadows, now hiding itself beneath its swelling banks and pendant willows,—now bursting on the eye in one bright sheet, or branching out into little steamlets, which fertilize the soil, and afford pleasing amusement for the solitary angler, who, seated on the verdant turf, richly variegated with mead-flowers, might soon procure a plentiful repast from the finny tribes that sport in the chrystal wave.

Along the margin of those silent streams, may the student steal from the busy haunts of men,

—————To meditate the book
Of nature, ever open.—————

Here have the muses sometimes deigned to meet their votaries; and to those scenes some pieces of Poetry owe their birth, which we are sorry we cannot now lay before the public, tho' they justly deserve to be rescued from oblivion, by being placed in some conspicuous situation.

THE east and west avenues of the town, as well as that leading from WAYMOUTH, for upwards of a mile, are planted on either side with rows of trees, which in few years will have a fine effect. On the north side of the river, to a great distance, appear extensive meadows, and fine warm sandy lands;—on the opposite side, chalky downs of vast extent, covered with flocks, the most esteemed in the kingdom; and the soil affords a profusion of thyme, and other aromatic herbage, which have been supposed to be highly conducive to their nourishment and fertility.—Hence they are bought up with the greatest avidity, and carried to the most distant parts of the kingdom. It is said that between 6 and 7000 sheep are fed in this neighbourhood, and that within the circuit of seven miles. The mutton of this county is, by epicureans, accounted of the best flavour of any in the kingdom. The field on the south, called Fordington Field, is the largest in this country—the land belongs to the Prince of Wales. This town is likewise famous for its Beer, and for the largest Breweries in the west of England.

THE recent improvement of our Prisons, has, since the days of the immortal *Howard*, afforded matter of pleasing speculation, to the curious and philanthropic mind; we therefore humbly presume, that no other apology

will

will be necessary for this short digression on 'that essential branch of the police'.

THE OLD COUNTY JAIL, at the bottom of the High-Street, being a miserable building, and much out of repair, was taken down, and rebuilt in the year 1785. The front of the Present Structure is of Portland stone, and, with regard to *appearance*, reflects no inconsiderable degree of credit on the taste and abilities of the architect: Nevertheless, this building also, in point of situation and design, was soon found to have numberless *defects*, of which the projectors had not been aware; and which could no way be remedied, but by erecting another, on a more elevated spot, and on a more free and extensive plan. Here it may not be superfluous to observe, that ever since the re-building of the above structure, (which, in order to distinguish it from that which is now building, still retains the name of the OLD JAIL,) all means have been used to excite and cultivate a spirit of industry, in addition to a system of strict regularity; and the present Keeper has used his exertions towards effecting those laudable purposes: He has established a manufactory of hats, in which the prisoners are employed according to their respective circumstances and capacities; and thus many a poor wretch, whom sloth and indolence had else corrupted and enervated, after satisfying the demand of the laws in stated confinement,—perhaps

for

for the venial crimes of youth or inadvertence,—again enters, as it were, into the world, a renovated being, and becomes a useful member of the community.——“*PARUM EST COERCERE IMPROBOS POENA, NISI “PROBOS EFFICIAS DISCIPLINA **,” Is a motto extremely applicable, and ought ever to be remembered by those who accept the charge of such unfortunate delinquents.

IDLENESS and disorder, it has been justly observed, have ever been productive of the most fatal consequences in places of confinement, where for want of employment, the prisoners concert unheard-of schemes of villainy, which they only want their liberty to put in execution, or else lay their plans to elude the vigilance of the laws, and again break in on the public with renewed audacity.

'TWAS this Prison his MAJESTY honored with a visit, in the summer of 1792, during his excursion to WAYMOUTH; he was attended by the QUEEN, and PRINCE of WALES, DUKE of YORK, and Six PRINCESSES, with their Suite; and here he performed an act of benevolence and condescension, unparalleled in the annals of British history, and which shall shine with the brightest lustre, when ‘the pomp of power,’ and the parade of royalty shall be forgotten, and perish in oblivion!

* This Sentence is inscribed on the walls of a Prison in ROME.

MANY

MANY years, prior to this, a dispute arose between two noble Lords, respecting the right to a certain spot of land in this county; in order to try this question, one of the Parties erected a cottage on the premises, and placed one Pitfield, a peasant, and his family in it:—This cottage was immediately pulled down by the other:—When, at the instance of his Patron, the poor man commenced an action against his Aggressor. The cause was tried at the county assizes, and a verdict was given in favor of the Defendant. The costs amounted to £. 220, which, on application to the poor man's Abettor, he absolutely refused to discharge! In consequence of which, the unfortunate Pitfield was taken in execution, torn from the arms of his distressed and lamenting family, and doomed to languish in all the horrors of a prison! Here he had lain above seven years when the ROYAL FAMILY, with their wonted humanity, visited this abode of misery, and, amongst many other objects of charity were particularly struck with the wretched situation of this unfortunate man; and his MAJESTY, after a strict investigation of the circumstances of his cause, ordered the money to be paid and the poor victim liberated—to the great joy of his long-lamenting family, and to the eternal honor of his illustrious Benefactor! *

“WHILE

* A Capital Print of this affecting scene is now about to be published, by Riley, Bookseller London; in the Proposals for which he says; ‘Judging it prudent, before we sent down an artist to take Pitfield's likeness, &c. to inquire into his character and conduct towards the two noble Lords; the Keeper of the Prison concludes a very polite answer in the following words:

“Whatever

“ WHILE the Tyrants of every state in Europe, are at this time trembling on their thrones, in fear of their long oppressed subjects, behold, O happy Englishmen! behold your SOVEREIGN familiarly mixing with the poorest of his people! Behold him, with your amiable QUEEN, and your much-admired PRINCE, whose feelings are always awake to the distresses of his fellow-creatures, and whose hand is ever open to relieve them—behold him, surrounded by his amiable FAMILY, visiting and opening the gates of your prisons, and giving Liberty to the poor and oppressed Debtor. At such a scene every heart must glow, and wish that every MONARCH was such a MAN!” ‡

BEFORE we quit this subject we must not forget to relate another circumstance, which every true patriot and philanthropist have long wished to see take place—a plan which has, with good effect, been put in execution, by MR. PITT, of Kingston-House, in this neighbourhood, to employ the Convicts on his own lands.—The Prisoners thus employed, are such as were destined for transportation, but whose sentences were altered, by his MAJESTY, to sentences of hard labour, with the COUNTY of DORSET, under the direction of the Magistrates, for

—“Whatever benefit may accrue to this man, it cannot be bestowed on a more worthy object, I have marked his behaviour six years and a half, the time of my holding this office, and I can with truth say, he is one of *the noblest works of God,—an Honest Man.*”

‡ Proposals for the above Print.

terms

terms of years agreeable to the terms of their former sentence for transportation : They generally work by measure for the benefit of the County, at the usual prices, and a small proportion of their earnings, is allotted to them, which is intended to be given them at their discharge.

THE NEW JAIL, is situated on an eminence on the banks of the Frome, where formerly stood a formidable Castle, said to have been raised by the Romans, who walled and fortified the Town, at a little distance from which a part of the ancient wall is yet remaining. Its situation is the most dry and healthful imaginable, enjoying all the advantages of unconfined, salubrious air, and excellent water. This Building is of brick, lofty and spacious, in which nothing that can contribute to cleanliness or conveniency has been neglected, proper apartments are allotted for every class of delinquents,—here the prisoners will be treated conformable to the strictest oeconomic and medical rules, and even their morals will be an object of the minutest attention. Such a plan is worthy of those who laid it, and of a people famous for humanity and generosity of sentiment. This Edifice, at a distance, has not only an elegant, but dignified aspect, which reminds us of this line of the Poet,

Her Poor to Palaces Britannia brings!

C

WHILE

WHILE our ideas are employed on those regulations and improvements, we cannot avoid drawing a contrast between the state of our Prisons, and those of despotic kingdoms.—The BASTILLE instantly presents itself to the imagination—humanity starts back, shuddering and appalled! In this land of freedom, even the unfortunate malefactor becomes the care of the legislature, while pity sheds a sympathizing tear over his misfortunes;—on the other hand, in that House of despair, plunged in gloomy dungeons, too often but for imaginary crimes, the poor victim languished out a miserable existence, or, perhaps, waited in all the agony of suspense, to be summoned to experience the tortures of the rack, and the insults of an unfeeling police. The demolition of this infernal Structure was viewed with pleasure, by all free nations, as a glorious exertion on the part of the French, to shake off the shackles they had long worn.—Thus far they acted nobly; but we are sorry to observe that their subsequent proceedings have obliterated their former glory, and this short sun-shine, that seemed to promise a lasting and happy calm, was but the omen of a storm, which will perhaps overturn the Gallic Empire to its foundations, and hide its boasted honors in the impenetrable clouds of eternal infamy! Far be it from us to give the sanction of our approval to deeds disgraceful to human nature, or to inflame the minds of our countrymen, by expatiating on precedents so dangerous to the common weal.

Lives there a BRITON, who, with genius fraught,
Dares claim the high pre-eminence of thought—
Who proudly soars, unequall'd in his flight,
Thro' the vast system of material light—
Yet, who, declining from his airy sphere,
Lends growling Faction all his greedy ear—
Who, big with omens of the nation's fate,
Directs the train that conflagrates the state?

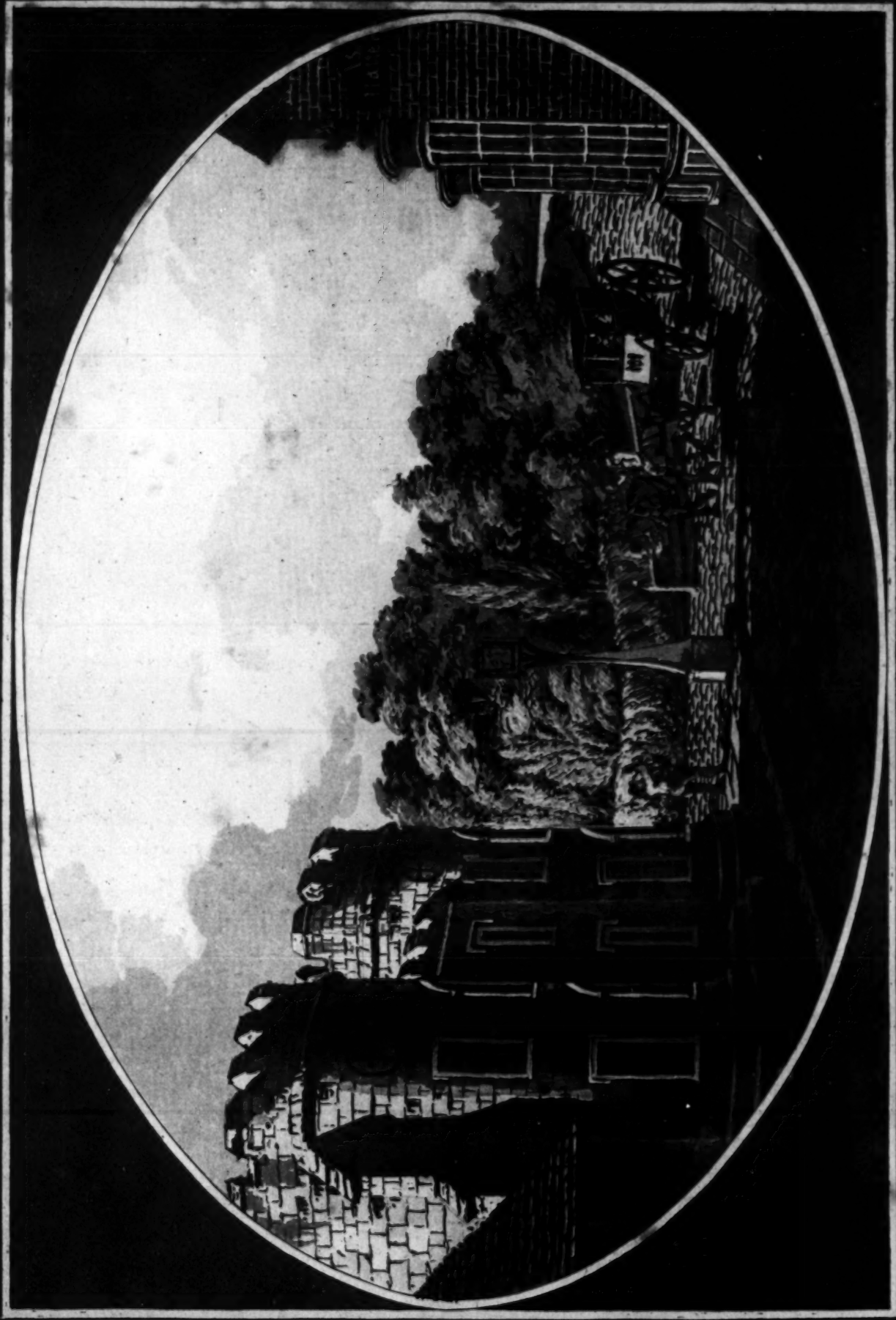
Forbid it heaven!—Yet as the Speech said to be delivered by the brave Conqueror of the BASTILLE, at the important crisis of its demolition, has much engrossed the public attention, we trust this translation of it from the original will prove acceptable.

“ ELECTORS of PARIS,—Citizens,—Frenchmen! the glorious e-
“ vent is now arrived, when FRANCE quits her chains, emerges from
“ darkness, and is warmed to animation by the bright beams of the Sun
“ of Liberty. The moment is of vast import—the prize is invaluable;
“ for the noblest Rights of Mankind, and the happiness of millions must
“ now, or never, be asserted and secured. If we succeed, future ages will
“ honor us as Heroes, will worship us as Deities, while our immediate and
“ immense reward is the salvation of our Country. O, godlike enthusiasm!
“ the tear of joy bursts from my eyes; my full heart struggles with extacy,
“ when I behold you all assembled in a cause worthy of yourselves—the
“ cause of Freedom! Then, be strenuous—be united—be moderate—
“ yet, be unshaken! ”

“ WITH minds enlightened, and with hearts sincere, we have long
 “ groaned in bondage, and been treated with ignominy. Brave in charac-
 “ ter, generous in sentiment, magnanimous in exertion, we have yet been
 “ Slaves; but even then were Patriots. Rejoice, ye men of honor! ye men
 “ of wisdom! the patriotism of FRANCE is no longer prejudice, it is now
 “ founded on reason—it is now fixed on truth: The abominable and inhu-
 “ man engine of unrelenting despotism is destroyed—the BASTILLE is
 “ annihilated, and the Wretch who governed it, and was worthy of his
 “ trust, is now no more! Yet, let the remembrance of the tyranny of
 “ that State Prison live forever in your bosoms; recollect that its misera-
 “ ble victims were sacrificed, with a shameless secrecy, at the altar of pri-
 “ vate malice. Alas! yes; without justice, and without appeal, your fel-
 “ low creatures—your countrymen, have languished away their lives in
 “ horrid dungeons, and, thro’ years of solitary sufferance, have had no con-
 “ solation, but from frenzy—no hope, but from death!——I must pause;
 “ ——the idea of such barbarity, and of such endurance, choaks my ut-
 “ terance, and overcomes me! O, may it also confirm you in your duty!”

“ ADVANCED so far in the great work of national reformation, power-
 “ ful and collected as we are, it behoves us to avoid licentiousness and

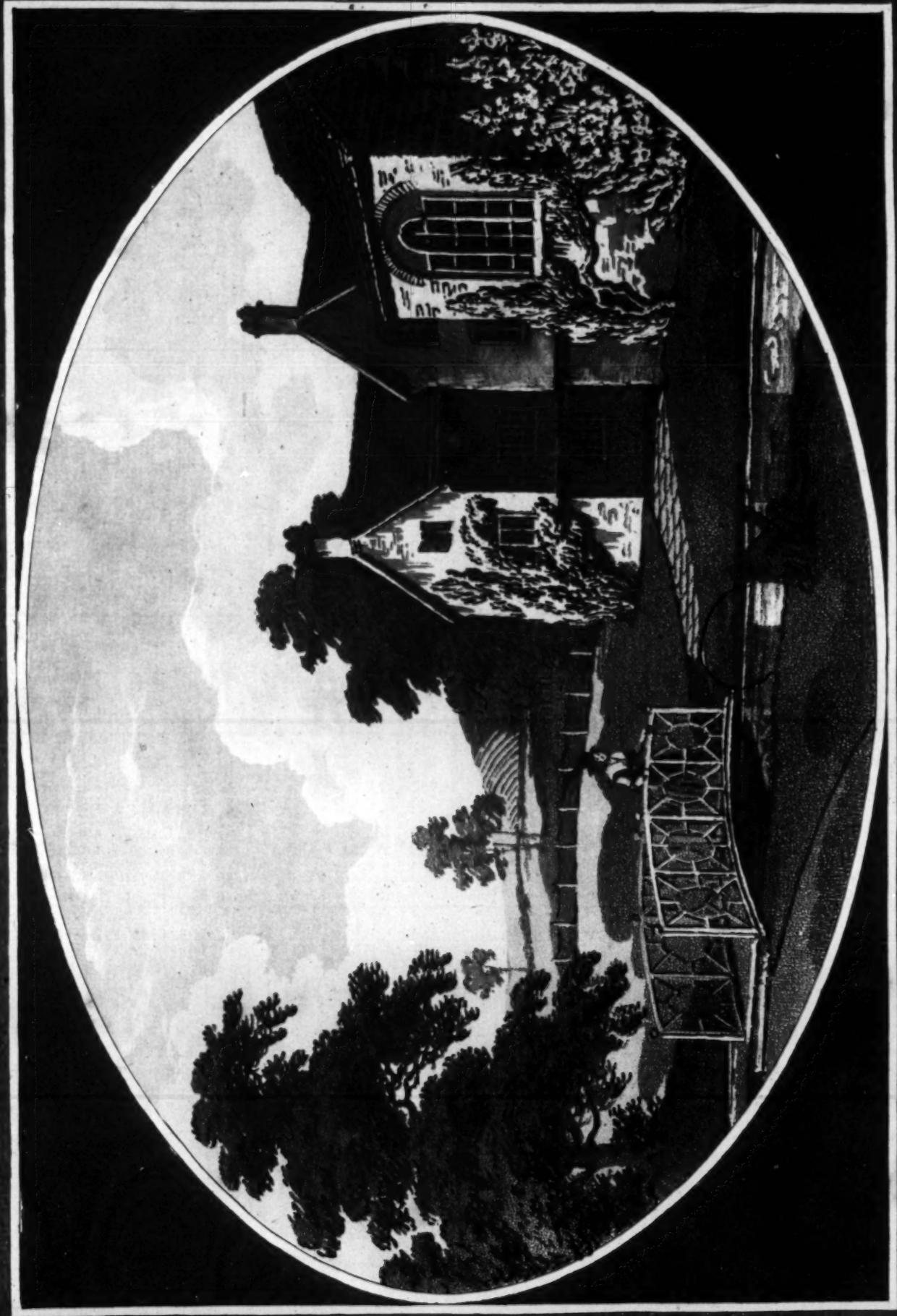
disorder.



R. Andrews del.

The old Jail at DORCHESTER.
Pub. as the Act directs, by Hove, Weymouth, Jan^y 1793.

Exc^{ts} by G. Parkyns Esq.

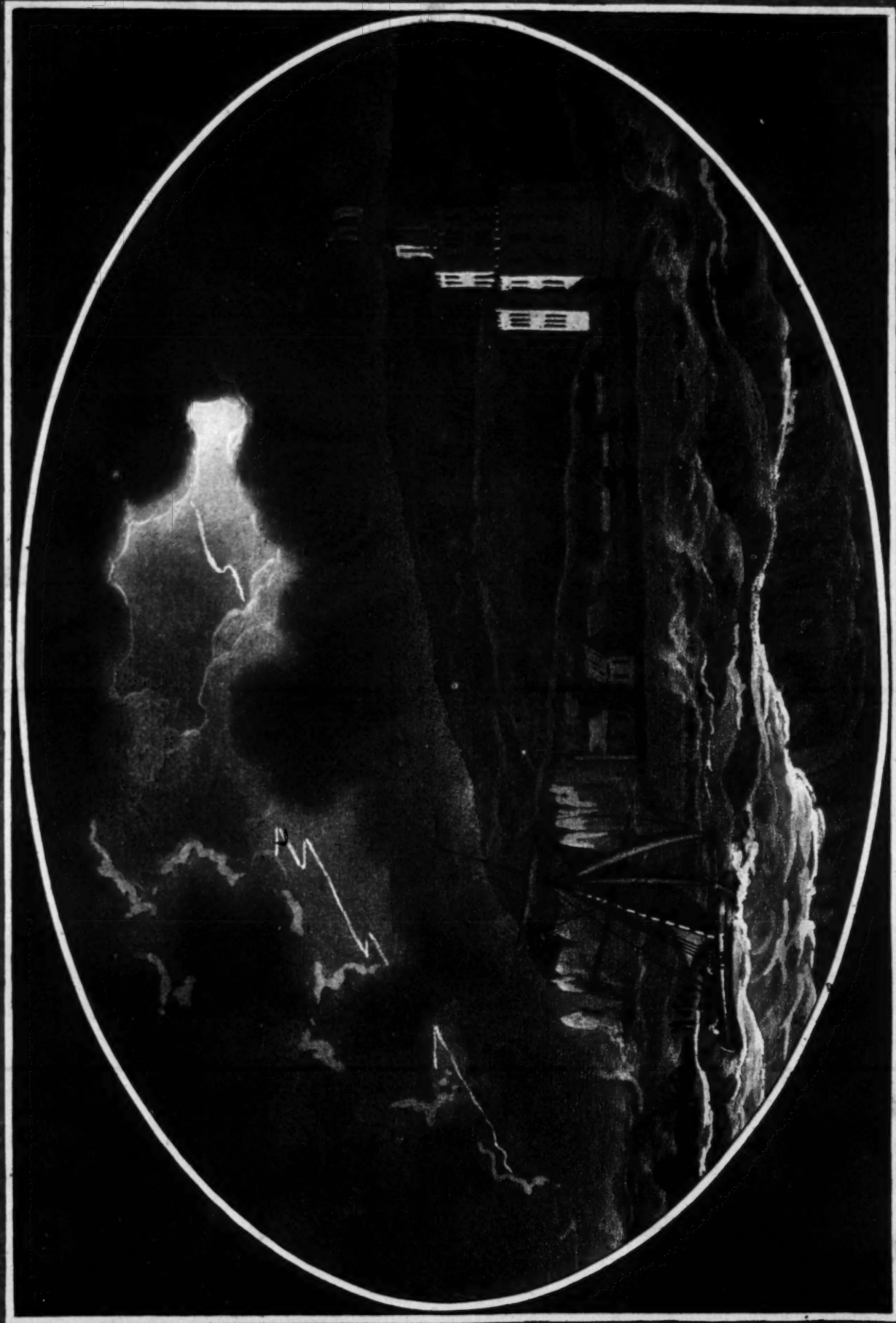


R. Andrews del.

The Seat of G. Gould Esq. at UPWAX.

Pub. as the Act directs. by H. over Weymouth Jan. 1793.

Exc. by G. L. Parkyns Esq.



A Campbell Engr. del.

BROWNSSEA CASTLE, the Seal of Cha.^s Sturt Esq.

Which as the Act directs by Hove. Weymouth, Jan. 1. 1793.

Engr. by G. D. P. Engr. del.



Mrs. Palmer, del.

The Church & part of the Village of UPWAY.

Pub. as the Act directs by Hove Weymouth, Jan 21, 1793.

Exc. by G. L. Parkyns Esq.